

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7975
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
REGIONAL IMBALANCE
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry are assessing the reasons for regional imbalances in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the study conducted on the regional imbalances of North, South and Central Orissa during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plan; and
- (c) the steps taken to implement the findings of the study ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (c) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Hence, Planning Commission has not conducted any particular study of regional imbalances in Orissa.

However, to deal with the basic problems of the undivided districts of Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) in Orissa a Long Term Action Plan was launched in 1995 for the development of these districts. Thereafter, to ensure better focus on high priority schemes which would deal with the basic problems of these districts, the Government of Orissa was asked to prepare a revised plan. The Revised Long Term Action Plan (1998-99 to 2006-07) consists of Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in various sectors, namely agriculture, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation, irrigation, health, drinking water, emergency feeding, welfare of SCs/STs and rural connectivity.

Recurring droughts and weak administration resulting in slow implementation of schemes, besides certain policies followed by the State Government are among the reasons for the continued affliction of these pockets with abject poverty. Efforts are being made to mitigate the endemic poverty of this region through a three-pronged approach :

- (i) Drought –proofing through watershed development, afforestation and extension of irrigation facilities;
- (ii) A more responsive administration, and
- (iii) A change in some of the policies of the State Government related to non-timber forest produce , land acquisition , restoration of alienated land and autonomy to village panchayats in financial matters.